

THE SILVER STAR

*** * * * ***

LAWRENCE K. WHITE, (O-19241), Colonel, Infantry, United States Army, FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION at Luzon, Philippine Islands, on 16 and 17 April 1945.

When the advance of the 148th Infantry Regiment which he commanded was halted by intense enemy fire, Colonel White left his advance observation post, joined the forwardmost elements and took personal command of the situation. Although often exposed to the hostile fire, he so skillfully directed the attack that his Regiment advanced 6,000 yards and the Japanese fire was effectively silenced. The next day enemy forces launched a strong tank-supported counterattack against Colonel White's leading Infantry and Armored elements. The situation was perilous and called for immediate, vigorous action. Again, leaving the comparative security of his advance observation post, Colonel White hastened to the front, personally directing countermeasures which resulted in the destruction of the attacking enemy tanks and the dispersion of the accompanying Japanese infantry. During the action Colonel White was struck and painfully wounded by hostile machine gun bullets which fractured his left leg. Refusing to be evacuated until the men who had been wounded beside him were first given attention, Colonel White outlined his final order to the officer succeeding him in command before permitting himself to be removed from the field of battle.

General Orders Number 157

16 June 1945

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW